

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A self-closing valve for the dispensing of flowable media from a container having;  
a curved membrane, the curvature of which is directed toward the flowable media in the closed position and which curves outwardly into a dispensing position upon pressure being generated in the container,  
a connecting wall arranged between said membrane and a first retaining ring,  
a slitting provided in said membrane which opens in the dispensing position, wherein said slitting is arranged such that upon the deformation of the membrane from the closed position to the dispensing position induced by the application of pressure to the container, elastic resilient forces are generated within the membrane which cause said membrane to retract from said dispensing position to said closed position upon depressurization,  
said connecting wall between said first retaining ring and said membrane is disposed with a disc-like area which is arranged substantially in a common plane with said first retaining ring or on a plane which is parallel to same,  
wherein a transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured such that substantially no or only minimal torque is transferred from said connecting wall to

said membrane so that any torque transmitted from said connecting wall to said membrane has substantially no effect on the opening and closing of said slitting; and  
~~said membrane having a constant wall thickness; and~~  
a constriction/notch is provided in said transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane on a side facing away from the container;  
wherein said connecting wall has an area extending upwardly in curved fashion at ~~an obtuse angle~~ from the first retaining ring away from the container interior when the valve is affixed to the container;  
the upwardly curved area merges with an annular protrusion into the membrane so that the transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured in a hinge-like manner; and  
~~said first retaining ring contacting a second retaining ring that is arranged on a side of the first retaining ring facing the container in an affixed state of the valve.~~

23-24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said membrane and said connecting wall are configured to be substantially rotationally symmetric.

26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said membrane has a peripheral wall directed substantially to the connecting wall and a contact area

is formed on said wall for connecting the membrane with the connecting wall.

28. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 27, wherein said contact area is formed on a middle region of said peripheral wall such that it is disclosed toward the inner curvature and, when in assembled state, away from the container interior.

29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said slitting is configured such that it has one slit.

31. (cancelled)

32. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said slitting comprises four, five or more slits which are preferably arranged so as to be star-shaped and which preferably have the same angular spacing from one another.

33. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 25 wherein said slitting is configured to be rotationally symmetric to said axis of rotation.

34. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 30 wherein at least one of said slits is interrupted so as to create a material bridge, whereby the length of said slit interruption is smaller than the total length of the respective slit.

35. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 30 wherein at least one slit has at least two or more interruptions.

36. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein a reinforcing ring is provided which is made from a harder synthetic material than the material of the membrane.

37. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 36 wherein said reinforcing ring is configured to be rotationally symmetric around the valve and having a plurality of openings.

38. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said valve body is made from a silicone material.

39. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said valve body is made from a thermoplastic elastomer.

40. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said valve is made from thermoplastic elastomer and polypropylene or from silicone and polyamide.

41. (previously presented) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said membrane is configured in segmented semi-spherical form and has a substantially constant thickness.

42-43. (cancelled)

44. (new) A self-closing valve for the dispensing of flowable media from a container having;  
a curved membrane, the curvature of which is directed toward the flowable media in the closed position and which curves outwardly into a dispensing position upon pressure being generated in the container,  
a connecting wall arranged between said membrane and a first retaining ring,  
a slitting provided in said membrane which opens in the dispensing position, wherein said slitting is arranged such that upon the deformation of the membrane from the closed position to the dispensing position induced by the application of pressure to the container, elastic resilient forces are generated within the membrane which cause said membrane to retract from said dispensing position to said closed position upon depressurization,  
said connecting wall between said first retaining ring and said membrane is disposed with a disc-like area which is arranged substantially in a common plane with said first retaining ring or on a plane which is parallel to same, wherein a transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured such that substantially no or only minimal torque is transferred from said connecting wall to said membrane so that any torque transmitted from said connecting wall to said membrane has substantially no effect on the opening and closing of said slitting; and said area of the connecting wall extending upwardly in curved fashion is at least approximately a semi spherical shape,

the center of its curve being positioned to face away from the container;

wherein said connecting wall has an area extending upwardly in curved fashion from the first retaining ring away from the container interior when the valve is affixed to the container;

the upwardly curved area merges with an annular protrusion into the membrane so that the transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured in a hinge-like manner.

45. (new) A self-closing valve for the dispensing of flowable media from a container having;

a curved membrane, the curvature of which is directed toward the flowable media in the closed position and which curves outwardly into a dispensing position upon pressure being generated in the container,

a connecting wall arranged between said membrane and a first retaining ring,

a slitting provided in said membrane which opens in the dispensing position, wherein said slitting is arranged such that upon the deformation of the membrane from the closed position to the dispensing position induced by the application of pressure to the container, elastic resilient forces are generated within the membrane which cause said membrane to retract from said dispensing position to said closed position upon depressurization,

said connecting wall between said first retaining ring and said membrane is disposed with a disc-like area which is arranged substantially in a common plane with said first retaining ring or on a plane which is parallel to same,

wherein a transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured such that substantially no or only minimal torque is transferred from said connecting wall to said membrane so that any torque transmitted from said connecting wall to said membrane has substantially no effect on the opening and closing of said slitting; and said area of the connecting wall extending upwardly in curved fashion is at least approximately a semi spherical shape, the center of its curve being positioned to face away from the container;

a constriction/notch is provided in said transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane on a side facing away from the container;

wherein said connecting wall has an area extending upwardly in curved fashion from the first retaining ring away from the container interior when the valve is affixed to the container;

the upwardly curved area merges with an annular protrusion into the membrane so that the transition zone between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured in a hinge-like manner.